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Getting to Know Scholarly Journals

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Getting to know Scholarly Journals

Multiple Literacies: Explorations of Reading and Writing

Rebecca Welzenbach, Research Impact Librarian

September 1, 2020

Link to these slides: <https://bit.ly/3qzY0tx>

Link to full text of this session: <https://bit.ly/2DisrXC>

Use the U-M VPN:

<https://its.umich.edu/enterprise/wifi-networks/vpn>

What's a research impact librarian?

I empower scholars to create the conditions under which they can establish:

- A strong public identity
- An account of their contributions to the scholarly enterprise
- A persuasive body of evidence for the impact of their work



Email me at rwelzenb@umich.edu
In more normal times, you'd find me in my
office in Hatcher 260A,

For today:

- What's special about scholarly journals (and why should you care)?
- When & why would you want to identify a particular journal, or compare one to another?
- Lenses for evaluating journals
- What next?

**What's special about
scholarly journals?**

PHILOSOPHICAL
TRANSACTIONS:
GIVING SOME
ACCOMPT
OF THE PRESENT
Undertakings, Studies, and Labours
OF THE
INGENIOUS
IN MANY
CONSIDERABLE PARTS
OF THE
WORLD

Vol. I.
For *Anno* 1665, and 1666.

In the SAVOY,
Printed by T. N. for *John Martyn* at the Bell, a little with-
out *Temple-Bar*, and *James Allestry* in *Duck-Lane*,
Printers to the *Royal Society*.

- Current model has roots in the 17th century
- Continuing, public record of scholarly exchange
- Peer review
- Growing network of citations
- 10's of thousands of journals actively publishing today

When & why would you want to find, select, or compare journals?

When & Why?

- I have an assignment!

When & Why?

- I have an assignment!
- I found an article I'm interested in & want to evaluate its source.
- I want to keep up with trends in my field. Should I be subscribing to/reading this?
- I need to identify the best possible venue to publish my work.
- I am looking for a variety of readings for a class I'm teaching.
- I am applying for promotion / tenure / a job / a fellowship / a grant / a postdoc and I need to contextualize my work for others who don't know it.

When you know why, you can get to what:

- Validity
- Reliability
- Rigor
- Exclusivity
- Peer review process
- Timeliness
- Innovation
- Scope & content
- Diversity & representation
- Prestige
- Accessibility/availability
- Copyright practices
- Affiliation with individuals or organizations I trust
- ...etc.

Lenses for evaluating journals

Bibliometric

- Example: Journal Impact Factor (JIF)
- $\frac{\text{\# of citations in the current year}}{\text{\# of items published in the two prior years}}$
- Intended to guide library collections decisions; now often misused as a proxy for quality
- Explore the JIF (and other metrics): [Journal Citation Reports](#)
- [San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment](#)

Editorial

- Editor-in-Chief and Editorial board
- Scope & Content
- Peer review process
- Acceptance rate
- Learn more: [Platform for Responsible Editorial Policies](#)

Affiliations and Visibility

- Associated with a society, conference, or organization?
- Example: [PMLA website](#)
- Abstracting & Indexing: [Ulrichsweb Global Serials Directory](#)

Publisher Policies & Practices

- Society, Academic, Commercial, Library?
- Copyright policies, Author agreement, deposit rights
- [Sherpa Romeo directory of publisher policies](#)
- [Committee on Publication Ethics \(COPE\) Guidelines](#)
- [U-M Copyright Office Author's Addenda](#)

**This seems like a lot
to think about.**

I agree. Let's talk more later.

Please, reach out to me!

- Rebecca Welzenbach
(rwelzenb@umich.edu)
- [Book an appointment online](#)



Additional resources to explore

Library Research Guides:

- [Research Impact Assessment \(Health Sciences\)](#)
- [Research Impact Challenge Guide](#) (esp. Days 6-10)
- [Scholarly Publishing](#)

Other:

- [Starting \(and Sustaining!\) a Journal](#)
- [Metrics Toolkit](#)
- Karin Wulf on The Scholarly Kitchen Blog: “[If we don't know what citations mean, what does it mean when we count them?](#)”



Thank you!